

# The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 26 No. 1

April 1995

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

## Cross Recycles For Beautification

Andy Cross, who lives at 60xx McPherson, has been an inveterate recycler for some time. He and a dedicated team received awards for decorating the "Yard Waste Only" dumpsters.

He and his wife Linda have been recycling newspapers on the 61xx block of Kingsbury for 6 years. As of February, they have collected 103,070 pounds of newspaper-51.5 tons from one city block! This effort equals about 170 cubic yards of landfill space unused; 3,090 pounds of air pollution effluents avoided; 35,149 gallons of oil saved (enough to power the average home for 26 years); and 876 trees still alive.

When Andy began newspaper recycling on Kingsbury, he received a small amount for the papers. He pledged to use the money to help beautify the neighborhood. But, the payment quickly turned to nothing for most of these 6 years. But, demand for recycled newsprint has grown of late and Andy now gets a penny a pound.

Cross is going to use these funds to beautify the barriers which redirect traffic on our streets. He will begin with those along Rosedale. The accompanying photograph shows his design for each of cement pillars. He will use recycled wood and then will paint his creation in a beige tone. The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council has endorsed his efforts and we should see this new look in the next month or two.

### SDCC DIRECTOR TO LEAVE

by Beth Bender

After two and a half years as Executive Director of Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council Kim Koenig has tendered her resignation to become Director of Operations for the Catholic Commission on Housing. While this is a wonderful opportunity for Kim, it will without question be a loss to the Council and the entire Skinker-DeBaliviere Community.

Kim begins her new job April 24th, but has generously agreed to make herself accessible to assist with a smooth transition when a new Executive Director is found.



Andy Cross's barricade posts. Kids (from left) playing in the area were Melissa Quinn, Edmund Quinn, Dwayne "DJ" Hagens, Ebony Quinn.

### Times Hosts 25th Anniversary Reception April 23

*The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere (originally called The Paper) celebrates its 25th anniversary with this issue.*

*The Board of The Times invites all interested readers to attend a reception celebrating the anniversary.*

*The reception is being held at the Central West End Bank, DeBaliviere at Waterman, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 23. Light refreshments will be available and a poster commemorating this event will be on sale. We hope to see everyone there!*

While working for Skinker-DeBaliviere Kim provided us with innovative leadership in a wide array of areas. It was during her tenure and through her efforts that the Apartment Owner's Association began, that we started the "Friends Of SDCC", that the neighborhood undertook and raised thousands of dollars conducting a bingo, and that the neighborhood received both the John Heinz Grant Award and a \$10,000 United Way Venture Grant for Youth Cycles. The

*continued on page 3*



Kim Koenig

### News Briefs

#### ANOTHER PLAYGROUND

#### MEETING TO TAKE PLACE ON APRIL 18

The Playground Committee is scheduling another community meeting to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of having a playground for children 6 and under in the center of the neighborhood. The site now being considered is the parking lot adjacent to the SDCC office on Des Peres at Kingsbury. Grant monies appear to be available for this undertaking.

All interested residents who wish to learn more about this project or wish to express their opinions pro and con are welcome to attend. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 18, at 6:30pm in the Social Hall at Grace Methodist Church, on Waterman at Skinker. For further information, call the SDCC at 862-5122.

#### ANHEUSER-BUSCH CON.

#### TRIBUTES TO WEST END ARTS COUNCIL

Anheuser-Busch has given a \$1,000 contribution to the West End Arts Council to help support their 1995 program. This supplements monies granted by the Regional Arts Commission for West End Arts Council programming.

#### ALBER-LELAND PUBLISHING MOVES TO SKINKER

The lovely building at the corner of Skinker and Westminster (500 N. Skinker) will become the new home of Alber-Leland Publishing. They have purchased the building and expect to move there on April 7. They will be occupying the entire structure. They now have seven staff members and expect to expand in the near future.

Alber-Leland is an 85-year old company which publishes transportation directories for motor freight and rail. John Alber indicated that he is interesting in becoming involved with the neighborhood and its activities. Welcome!

#### STOP EXCESSIVE NEWSPAPERS

Any Skinker DeBaliviere resident interested in stopping delivery of either the Metro Post or the Journal should call the circulation department of the publications:

Metro Post 340-8888

Journal 821-1110

The SDCC will aid you in stopping one or both of these papers. Call 862-5122.

*Celebrating 25 Years of Service to Skinker DeBaliviere*

# Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

It is very difficult when senseless violence disturbs our urban landscape. No matter how many academic explanations there are to explain gangs, street crime, and wanton assaults and killings, that does not make it any easier to endure.

In this 25th anniversary of our newspaper, I would like to speak glowingly of our neighborhood and the wonderful people who have fought to keep it diverse and stable. The struggle is never over, the battle never fully won. Yet, many of our neighbors continue to devote their energies, as they have for 20 or 30 years, to seeing that Skinker DeBaliviere remains a good place for all of us live.

And most of the time it is. But acts do occur that could make any of us question our commitment. The havoc marked by crack and assault weapons is not going to end anytime soon. There will continue to be youngsters looking for a place to belong and material possessions who will participate in unlawful acts. Peer pressure can be a powerful force. Gangs, drugs, and crime mark all metropolitan areas. St. Louis is in no way singled out.

Perhaps this neighborhood, already very unique in its durability and its demographics, can

continue in that vein by remaining strong and united for the common end. There are a lot of residents who care and who have played a role in the 25 years that this newspaper has brought you information on people and events. The long-term members of the board of *The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere* are examples of the people who have cared and fought for the best of city living. I am a latecomer who has learned a tremendous amount from working with my colleagues on this newspaper. I respect their energy and their dedication to bringing you an independent and concerned voice. There is never, seemingly, enough time or money but the board carries on. Our "paper" usually accents the positive but that is because there is a lot of positive to highlight.

Our anniversary is not an ending but a continuation of a pledge to provide all residents of Skinker DeBaliviere a voice and an outlet. Please help us to keep bringing you *The Times* with your support and your suggestions for stories. If you want to join us in bringing out our paper, the door is always open to you.

When bad events occur in the city, I know that I would lose heart were it not for the wonderful people in our neighborhood. There is evil in the world outside

that can destroy our faith but, as Anne Frank wrote, "in spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart. I simply can't build up my hopes on a foundation consisting of confusion, misery, and death. I see the

world gradually being turned into a wilderness . . . yet, if I look up into the heavens, I think that it will all come right, that this cruelty, too, will end, and that peace and tranquillity will return again."

# CALENDAR



## Neighborhood Meetings

### April

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 6  | Rosedale Neighborhood Association Potluck Dinner and Election of Officers, Crossroads School, 6 p.m.  |
| 10 | SDCC Board of Directors, SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:30 p.m.  |
| 17 | Apartment Owners Association, SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury, 7 p.m.  |
| 18 | Delmar Business Association, SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury, 12 Noon Meeting on Proposed Playground, Grace Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 6:30 p.m. |
| 18 | <i>The Times</i> 25th Anniversary Celebration, Central West End Bank, 3:00-5:00 p.m.  |
| 23 | Housing Corporation, SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury, 12 Noon Operation BrightSide Blitz Day   |
| 26 |   |
| 29 |   |

### May

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| May 8 | SDCC Board of Directors, SDCC, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:30 p.m. |
|-------|--|

## Other Events of Interest

### April

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 14-15 | Sex, Drugs, Rock N Roll, a play by Eric Bogosian about contemporary American males, Late Night Series, Orthwein Theatre, 425 N. Warson Rd. 10pm. For mature audiences. Call 995-7300 for information.           |
| 16    | Electronic musician Carl Stone presented by New Circle Music at Washington University Gallery of Art, Steinberg Hall, at 8pm. Tickets available at Vintage Vinyl; \$10 general admission, \$6 students/seniors. |

### May

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 7 | From All Walks of Life, 6th annual walk to raise funds for local organizations which assist those with AIDS at Kiener Plaza - Gateway Mall. Registration starts at 10am. Concert and memorial service at noon; walk begins at 1:30pm. First Annual Dance-a-thon begins at 3:30pm. For information call 367-7273. Mayor Bosley and Channel 5's Deanne Lane will lead pledge walkers. |
|---|---|

Thanks for your vote of confidence!

Alderman Dan McGuire

Paid for by Citizens to Elect Daniel J. (Dan) McGuire - Art Perry, Treasurer

Blueberry Hill

"An odd nostalgia seems to hang over it all, a sawdust chic."

- novelist Stanley Elkin

"Blueberry Hill is a treat - visual, aural and gustatory."

- Joe Pollack,  
St. Louis  
Post-Dispatch

# The TIMES of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Editor: Lana Stein  
Business Manager: JoAnn Vatcha  
(Acting) Production Manager: Marj Weir  
Typesetting: Marj Weir

*The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere* is published by the West End Publishing Co., a not-for-profit, independent, community organization. Members of the Board of Directors are:

Tom Hoerr	Vesta Lake	Sue Rothschild	Lana Stein
Marcus Kerz	Loretta Lloyd	Juliet Schoemehl	JoAnn Vatcha
Katie Kurtz	Essie McLean	Lois Schoemehl	Maryorie Weir
		King Schoenfeld	Kathleen Williams

Printing: Arcade Printing

### Advertising Rates:

#### Display Advertising

Column width, 2.25". Minimum ad size 2" x 1 col: \$24/insertion, (10% discount 5 to 8 issues contract, 15% discount 9 issues contract.)

For complete list of sizes and rates, write:

*The Times*, 6117 Westminster, 63112, or call 726-6974

### Guidelines for Submitting Copy

The Times welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of The Times has always depended in large part on submissions from non-staff area residents.

All material - articles, letters, notices, classified ads - must be typewritten on opaque paper, double-spaced, and signed. Copy may be submitted on computer diskette if the diskette is in DOS format or on high density Macintosh diskettes. Submissions on diskette should be accompanied by a printout of the article, the name of the word processing software in which it is written, and the full name and address of the party to whom the diskette should be returned. Signature on correspondence to the editor may be omitted by request. Calendar listings should be phoned in to the editor at 721-7532, or mailed to 5855 Nine Place. Deadline for all copy is the 18th of the month.

The writer is responsible for the accuracy of the data, including times, dates, location, and particularly the spelling of names.

Pictures or illustrations should be in black and white. Color photographs do not reproduce well.

The Editor retains the right to omit or alter any material.

## Operation Blitz Set for April 29

On Saturday, April 29, the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood will once again participate in Operation Blitz, a city-wide program to clean up alleys and public areas. Bulk items, yard waste, and trash will be collected. Some areas typically plan special projects such as cleaning up vacant lots or beautifying public areas.

Your block captain can tell you about special projects such as the contests for Best Beautification and Best Clean-Up which are sponsored by Anheuser-Busch. Groups interested in competing must return their entry forms at least two weeks prior to Blitz Saturday. For those who wish to decorate their "yard waste only" dumpsters, a sketch of the proposed design must be attached to the entry form. Regional prizes of \$100, \$50, and \$25 are awarded and winners are entered in the city-wide competition for prizes of \$1,000, \$500, and \$250. "Before" pictures must be submitted. Projects can begin at anytime, but the project must be completed on our Blitz Saturday.

Here is a reminder on how Operation Blitz works:

### TRASH INSTRUCTIONS

1. Trash pick-up will start at 10:00 a.m. Trucks will pick up several times throughout the day. Please stop putting out large items by 1:00 p.m.

2. Car batteries, used motor oil, large appliances and tires will be recycled. Please separate household items.

3. Place grass, leaves, and twigs in "Yard Waste Only" dumpsters. Branches more than two inches in diameter and no longer than 3-4 feet should be bundled and placed with bulk items for collection. (A side note: If alley sweepings contain leaves and "yard" debris combined with rock, glass, and deteriorated blacktop, they are unsuitable for mulch and should be placed in the trash dumpster.)

### Placement of Items

4. Place all small items in trash dumpster. Be careful not to overload the dumpster. Remember gravel or blacktop or wet leaves are very heavy.

5. Large items, such as appliances and furniture should not be placed next to the dumpster. Please place large items directly behind your home if you have a through alley, or in front of your home if you do not have an alley. (This is your regular pick-up site.) Do not block streets, alleys or sidewalks with bulk items.

6. Trash trucks will not be able to empty trash receptacles if there is any material placed within four feet of any dumpster or roll-out cart. This is true at all times, not just on BrightSide days.

7. All debris must be bagged or put into the trash receptacles. Trash bags should be available

## Recycling, Or What Goes Around Comes Around

by Venita Lake

This month marks not only the twenty-fifth anniversary of *The Times* but also the twenty-fifth Earth Day. Concerns about the environment have had their high and low points over that time, and many of us have had similar ups and downs in our dedication to recycling.

We are probably creating more trash than we did 25 years ago, but recently it appears that more of that trash is finding a new use instead of going to the landfill. Early issues of *The Paper* devoted space to concerns (read "complaints") about trash cans and their attraction to dogs in the alleys. With the advent of our dumpsters, much of that problem has disappeared. We now have some dumpsters designated "For Yard Waste Only," and if we could improve the literacy rate in the neighborhood and convince people to obey the directive, they would be very effective. (This is a sore point with me, best left for the Letters to the Editor.)

A number of sources for disposing of recyclables are available and the items they are accepting have broadened.

**Operation BrightSide Recycling Center**, 1660 South Kingshighway, just north of Highway 44. Open Monday through Saturday - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The center accepts aluminum cans, aluminum scrap, newspaper, corrugated cardboard, paper grocery bags, office paper - white and colored ledger, copper, brass, computer paper, magazines, glass bottles and jars-all colors, plastic bottles-all #1, #2, and #3 as listed on the bottle, plastic grocery bags, scrap steel, tin cans.

Recyclers are asked to bring only clean containers to be recycled. Lids should be removed and deposited in appropriate recycling bin. Once at the site, recyclers

must separate items and deposit them in correct bins.

The center is operated as a drop-off site only. No money will be paid for any item.

Items not accepted at this facility include waste oil, anti-freeze, tires, batteries, large appliances, yard waste, 55 gallon drums or any hazardous materials.

For more information, contact Operation BrightSide at 781-4556.

**The City of St. Louis Refuse Division** will conduct a household hazardous waste collection and recycling day on June 10, 1995. Household hazardous waste includes items like anti-freeze, moth balls, drain cleaner, used motor oil, batteries, pesticides, paint, etc. This collection day is being held to provide residents with a means of safely disposing of leftover hazardous chemicals. For further information on where to take such materials, call the Refuse Division at 353-8877 Monday - Friday to make a reservation. There is no charge to participate.

The Refuse Division is also looking for volunteers to direct traffic, conduct surveys, and help residents unload recyclables on June 10. They will not come in contact with hazardous waste. Lunch and refreshments, a T-shirt and hat will be provided for volunteers, who are needed from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Linda Horn at 353-8877. Operation BrightSide will receive the exterior paint collected at this event for use in its graffiti eradication project.

**Earth Circle Recycling** now picks up recyclables at the front curb weekly in the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood. All

from your block captain. Loose debris will not be picked up by the trucks.

Operation Blitz is effective because it is a neighborhood-wide effort. When everyone gets out and cleans up alleys at the same time, the cumulative effect is impressive because debris is less likely to blow or wash over areas that have just been swept. The workload is generally easier if a number of people are helping one another, particularly where some individuals are unable to handle physical work. If you are unable to get out on Blitz Day, please make every effort to do your share either before the big day or very soon afterwards.

Contact the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council at 862-5122 or Operation BrightSide at 781-4556 for further information.

materials must be clean and free of foods, but they no longer must be separated. A single thick walled trash bag (up to 39 gallon size) may be used for newspaper, glass, magazines, catalogs, tin cans, aluminum, brass, copper, plastic-items numbered #1 through #7 except styrofoam, plastic bags, paper bags, mixed paper, and paperboard such as cereal boxes. Corrugated cardboard should be placed beside the recycling bag.

A small fee is charged for this service (but it's worth it). For further information, call 454-3528, or write P.O.Box 3505, St. Louis, MO 63143.

### SDCC Director Leaves

*continued from page 1*

Heinz Grant of \$42,000. allows for the continuation of the 50/50 Grant Program on Delmar, further funding for the neighborhood home improvement loan fund, and seed money for the upcoming Landscape-Monument Plan for the neighborhood.

Kim's efforts in the last two and a half years have also led to new traditions being started.

The National Night Out Party has been so successful that we all just presume there will be one each year. Food Drives for the local church pantries have also become a regular happening and have assisted in strengthening the bond between the Council and churches. Other signs of Kim's successful leadership have been the blighting of 6143 Waterman, and the continued greening of the old rachette lot on Washington & DesPeres.

So who will be the next Executive Director? A search committee has been formed and is actively seeking the best possible candidate for this position. The committee hopes to fill the position in a very timely fashion. Interested candidates should contact the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council Office.

## Position Available

The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council (SDCC) is accepting resumes for the position of Executive Director. The Executive Director develops public awareness of the SDCC, serves as the SDCC's liaison with a variety of public and private sector organizations, organizes and participates in SDCC activities, and administers the policies, procedures, programs, budget and day-to-day activities of the SDCC. The Executive Director is expected to work frequent evenings and weekends.

Applicants should have the following qualifications:

- A Bachelor's degree or commensurate work experience;
- Excellent organization and written/oral communications

skills and grant writing experience;

- Good interpersonal skills, tolerance, and the ability to work with diverse groups and individuals;
- Self-discipline and the ability to work independently.

Candidates living in, or willing to relocate to, the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood will be given priority. Starting salary ranges from \$20,000 to \$25,000, plus benefits, depending on qualifications.

Resumes should be sent to: Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council 6008 Kingsbury St. Louis MO 63112

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Equal Opportunity Employer

# Thoughts on our Silver Jubilee

by Marj Weir

*On the following pages (4-10) we have printed some memories provided by those who have been involved with The Times in one way or another over the years. We invite any of our readers to contribute their reminiscences for inclusion in future issues.*

by Jo Ann Vatcha

As apartment dwellers for many years, everything we knew about Skinker-DeBaliviere came from the little newspaper dropped on the doorstep monthly. (Not even the Post-Dispatch would deliver on our block back then!) I learned there was a Council Office, with a singular mission of recruiting people to stay here and buy homes in the neighborhood. I learned of the Story Hour at the library. We learned of the House Tour and Art Fair and began to realize that there were people that we wanted to know, just around the corner.

Eventually, after moving to Westminster, I was recruited to help with layout and shared the stimulating conversation and camaraderie of our group of stay-at-home moms. Layout was a physical challenge as well: back and forth up three flights of stairs at the Weir's, tending to toddlers and juggling cut-and-paste and last minute trips to the typesetters.

But writing Vicissitudes was my first real job with *The Paper*, and it took me in a new direction. As Pat Kohn had done before me, I had to call strangers, on every block of the neighborhood, for above all we wanted coverage of everyone—the older neighbors who hadn't flown, the newer people who were determined to make the area succeed. I found something extraordinary: the strangers became friends, now friends of over 22 years. And I learned all about their children and the schools and the churches and the historic architecture, and all the issues we confronted in reinventing our neighborhood.

Years later, after I moved on and Lisa Homer had written the people column for another five years, it somehow dawned on us how important it all is, the sharing of our lives. It's part of that small town feel of a very special place, proud of its diversity and its history. 25 years is a wonderful milestone for those of us lucky enough to have been involved with our neighborhood newspaper. May it last another 25!

Since 1972 when I first became involved with our newspaper, then called *The Paper*, I have been variously entangled in its preparation, production, financing, and/or oversight. This may not always have been in its best interest, but I look back on it with great affection. When *The Paper* was first started, it was led by people with real journalistic credentials. Printing was done first at Washington University, then at Nordmann Printing. By the time Chris Lange and I got hold of it, costs were mounting and income was not. We had to make some cuts in order to continue, so we decided to forego typesetting and type it ourselves. Remember, this was before the phrase "home computer" ever crossed anyone's mind, much less appeared in print.

With the generous donation of a pretty classy electric typewriter from Joe Botz's company, we typed all the copy in little columns. Old timers will remember the distinctly homemade look we achieved. What you may not know is that we typed it on adding machine tape in order to judge the column widths as we typed. It makes me laugh just to think about those sessions. Eventually we built up enough cash to return to typesetting. We went to a neighbor, Lurline Hogsett, who had opened a computerized typesetting shop on Skinker

by Venita Lake

I started working on *The Paper* shortly after we moved to Skinker-DeBaliviere in July 1974. I had previously edited the monthly newsletter of the League of Women Voters in Carbondale and decided to attend a "recruiting" meeting for people who might be interested in getting involved with the neighborhood newspaper. I vaguely recall that the meeting was at Chris Lange's house, and that Marj Weir and JoAnn Vatcha were both there. Little did I know that my volunteering would last, with only a few brief lapses, for over twenty years.

I do know that the first job I was given when I arrived to help with layout was to apply the zip-line tape to make the straight line across the top of the page. The tape is sort of a 1/16 inch-wide scotch tape. We sometimes use even thinner "hair-line" tape. It's also a test, like rolling your tongue, or rubbing your stomach and patting your head at the same—you can either do it, or you can't. If you can stretch the tape across the page and get it straight, you might wind up doing layout for twenty years.

Actually that's not completely true. Over the course of *The Paper's* history, we have had some

at Delmar. I remember schlepping my pre-schooler and his baby sister back and forth to pick up copy and get corrections. We developed quite a relationship with Lurline who was always helpful and tolerant.

In those days we created all the headlines using "press type," letters which those with good eyes, steady hands and nerves, and reliable spelling skills could rub onto faint blue lines until they could stand it no longer.

Not occasionally we had trouble having enough copy to fill four pages, much less eight, so we developed a library of magazines from which we borrowed illustrations of all kinds, filling the holes left by insufficient copy with these eclectic cuttings. I remember referring to this practice as "graphic-ing it up." It's still hard for me to read a magazine without considering what some little drawing would look like as filler at the end of a story. Now, of course, there is electronic clip art, but when you're in a pinch, it's still hard to find just the right illustration. A month or two ago, I looked everywhere for some kind of clock to use at the end of one of Tom's "In Your Ear" stories. The best I could get from my clip art collection was an hourglass—hardly a clock, but it filled a

space. Among our more sophisticated layout people there is a conviction that "white space is our friend," and though I am sure their judgment is superior on this matter, the unfilled holes still unsettle me, rather like a long silence at a cocktail party.

In picking through my collection of old issues, all of which I have seen many times before, I was struck by how many things I had remembered incorrectly, almost forgotten, or never realized. These back issues don't really make me nostalgic for the "good old days," probably because there was so much hard work that was being done. They do remind me of how much can be accomplished by young people who don't know any better!

In the early days we had a passion to continue producing the paper no matter what, which remains with me today despite the fact that I don't get as many "miles per gallon" anymore. I persist in the belief that we need our little paper, and I am just too stubborn to allow our publishing "streak" to end. Going through the archives has reinforced my determination to continue to be involved with it. So much of the goodness, talent, humor, and generosity of the people of our community is shared and recorded in it that it stands as its own special monument to our continuing success story.

## Editors During The Times' 25 Years:

Sharon Mier, Jody Creighton, Ed Schaeffer: April, 1970 - May, 1970
Jody Creighton, Jean Eberle, Mary Parker: June, 1970 - May, 1972
Marj Weir, Chris Lange: Fall, 1972 - December, 1974
Marj Weir: February, 1975 - December, 1976
Karen Bynum: February, 1977 - April, 1979
JoAnn Vatcha, Lois Schoenfeld: May, 1979 - June, 1979
Peggy Hermes: September, 1979 - June, 1981
Pat McLafferty: September, 1981 - June, 1982
JoAnn Vatcha, King Schoenfeld, Venita Lake: September, 1982 - June, 1983
Katie Kurtz: September, 1983 - September, 1988
Sue Rothschild: October, 1988 - December, 1991
Lana Stein: February, 1992 - present

technological changes, and one of them has been that the line at the top of the page is now done on the computer. We could do the verticals by PC as well, but usually, since we currently do not do full desktop publishing, we rely on the old standby.

A look through early issues reveals some changes in how the paper was assembled and the ups and downs of our financial situation. Most of the time, we have used some kind of typesetting and then pasted the columns, headlines, and illustrations to the layout sheets. For awhile (before my time, I think), someone typed the text into column format. During another phase, we paid for typesetting but then corrected typos by cutting out words or sometimes tiny letters and repasting them down. Now we save our copy to diskettes and Marj does magic in the computer to print out each contribution according to our format. Some things don't change:

in spite of our improved technology, with spellcheckers and multiple proofreadings, I often pick up the final printed copy and immediately discover a typo or something left out.

One other change: We have changed our name. First, it was *The Paper*, then *The Neighborhood Paper*, and eventually, *The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere*. There have been advocates for each name, and the changes were prompted originally by our difficulty in explaining that *The Paper* was the *name* of the paper, not the *Post-Dispatch*. Whatever, most of the "old-timers" still refer to *The Paper* rather than to *The Times*.

And regardless of what you call it, *The Times* has tried to reflect what is important to the neighborhood, its special events, its changes, its issues, and especially its residents and the vicissitudes of life in Skinker-DeBaliviere.

April, 1970

## Introducing . . . THE PAPER

This is the first issue of The Paper. Through the efforts of many, many neighbors and friends in the west end community, it is yours to read and enjoy.

The idea for such a paper is an old one. But it wasn't until a few weeks ago that interests coalesced and plans materialized. The Paper is a pioneer effort for our neighborhood.

All the work for this first issue has been voluntary. Some staff members have been able to work two or three days a week, while others just two or three hours.

The Paper is printed on machines at Washington University. The University has let the staff use the machines and provided \$30 to pay part of the costs of an operator. The Rosedale-Skinker Neighborhood Improvement Association donated \$80 to the newspaper. The rest of the cost was met by advertising bought by our local merchants. We greatly appreciate this help.

The Paper has the sole objective of representing the entire community by expressing the views and concerns of all who live here — young and old, and those in every economic class. The Paper wishes to be a voice of communication within the community so that neighbors may learn more about those who live around them. We hope to provide a means of freely discussing pertinent problems. We intend to cover every news event that happens in or affects our community.

To succeed as a viable community newspaper, The Paper must have an active response from the people. The Paper needs the volunteer efforts of all who are interested, to assure that every section of our community is represented.

Production of such a paper entails more than just literary skills. Art work, soliciting ads, typing and circulation are all vital parts of the job. Anyone interested in helping in some way may contact a member of the staff.

In acting as an organ of communication, The Paper will carry a Letters to the Editor column. We invite you to use this column to voice opinions on previous articles, current issues — anything you feel is important.

Also in keeping with the spirit of a community newspaper, classified ads will be free to residents of the entire area. They will be printed on a first come, first served basis in the space allowed.

We think The Paper is unique. We know of no other non-commercial paper in St. Louis which is written and produced by the volunteer efforts of a community. How successful we are depends on your support.

by Sue Rothschild

From October, 1988 to December, 1991, my name was on The Times' masthead as editor. I went back and scanned the front pages of those issues and saw some of the fun things this neighborhood does: ART EXPOSED and the Edible Arts Competitions, Christmas House Tour, SDCC plays "Too Many Nights in a Barroom" and "Promethea: A Burlesque Pageant," neighborhood dog show, "Rags to Riches", BrightSide Blitzes, Walk of Fame Inductions, and parties for The Times.

I also reviewed headlines of growth and change: opening of the Family Dollar store, renovation of the United Hebrew Temple for the Missouri Historical Society, establishment of the Housing Conservation District, the departure of Sister Leo Ann Bubb from St. Roch School, and the move of the New Cote Brilliante Church of God to the former Delmar Baptist Church.

Putting the paper together was like working a jigsaw puzzle-fitting the stories, headlines, pictures, cutlines and ads together. Would we need filler? How much to crop or enlarge pictures? Should we run the ad from the company that hasn't paid us in a year? It was interesting, usually fun, time consuming, worthwhile. I'm glad I did it.

untumed-on by scandal, exposing nothing more than our ordinariness, sure of its circulation and its place in the big scheme. Its writers and editors have failed to report all the surviving children and all the dead pets. But only because they had their own children and their own pets to worry about. They were our neighbors and we were theirs for twenty-five years of a paper, still delivered to our door, that holds a mirror up to our hopes for the twenty-first century: that our children be delivered out of all their furnaces and that the darkness be no danger because we have learned to see, really to see, each other. Watch for the news in this space.

by Dan Shea

Here are some stories The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere didn't report.

Before the Sinclair station was shut down, its gaseous bowels unearthed, when there was a deserted house next to it, later leveled and swept away to make a parking lot, my two oldest boys, an adventurous pair, went exploring in that deserted house in the days of our first settling into the neighborhood, around 1967. And as I heard it later, there were these guys, older, tougher, from the next block over (where we eventually moved) and they put my boys in the furnace, cold as a refrigerator though it was, and they wouldn't let them out, but eventually relented, because those were the days when even the bad guys went to church and there was accounting and my sons came home to dinner and a breathless tale and got to grow up.

And another one. About the supposedly bad-luck black cat, who preferred the alley she was born in but accepted our back porch because it had a saucer of milk on it. Black as ink she was and her name Inky to cinch the case. She couldn't come into the house because we would have

sneezed ourselves to death and left her an orphan after all. But we could fit out a cat house with a comforter for the cold winter and then, to free her from the burdens of family in so small a space, send her off to the Vet to get her fixed, as if reproduction were a kind of brokenness. Which being a he, she took badly, the fixing more formidable to my male mind when the news came from the on-site inspector at the Vet's. But Inky would have left his family fatherless anyway, because he had the bad sense to walk across the street in the middle of the night and not see the car and not realize that his dark cloak was a danger to him. So there he was early on the morning of the Fourth of July, stiff and already stinking in the heat, wandered too far from his natal alley but not so far that his death wasn't part of the neighborhood story.

The Times probably misses thousands of stories like these, every issue. But not through oversight. A paper that reports Scout activities and service station metamorphoses and that prints recipes from neighborhood boozos and blades and keeps politics at the people level is after all the ultimate alternative newspaper,

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by Katie Kurtz

The role that The Times has played in the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood cannot be overstated. As I look back over the sixteen years Paul and I have lived in the area, this small but noble paper has been one of the forces which has kept us moving forward and together.

Looking back in this spring of 1995, I remember the five years I was editor as time spent working on an ongoing project which I cared about, tying me to my neighbors and to the issues which both confronted us and affirmed us. The paper celebrated its fifteenth anniversary while I was editor; we changed our name from the generic late-1960's The Paper to the current name The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere with Ken Cohen's new masthead; we had, it seems, many parties in the Vatcha's backyard; we covered the closing of Des Peres; City Equity's purchase and "redo" of the Rosedale and Washington apartment buildings (Rosedale Square); and probably everyone has forgotten but what a great April Fool's trick we played on the front page with the barricades on Skinker with King's fabulous photography working its magic.

How fortunate we are to live in a neighborhood where we agree to disagree and where we have real issues about which to discuss. We are a lively bunch, and The Times gives us the forum to express that liveliness.

by Alderman Dan McGuire

I would like to add my congratulations and best wishes to all the volunteers, sponsors and advertisers that have made "The Paper," a.k.a. The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere, a success for the last 25 years. Since my family moved into the neighborhood in 1971, we have looked forward to each issue. As your Alderman, I am grateful that this very important community resource is available to keep us informed of current events and proposals, as well as, to remind us of our history.

I call on those readers who have not yet stepped forward "to take their turn" to do so now. Whether it be to volunteer to help write, publish or distribute the paper, sell advertising, buy advertising, or make a donation, The Times needs your help now to continue and build on our past efforts. To those that have already made an active contribution...thanks again and keep up the good work!

## Skinker-DeBaliviere through the Viewfinder

by King Schoenfeld

Most of my twenty-three years as a resident of Skinker-DeBaliviere have involved photographing the life and times of our neighborhood for *The Times*. I've been looking through some of the archives recently. These images from the last 10 years seem to capture, in my experience, some of what makes Skinker-DeBaliviere a great place to live. The events surrounding these photographs would still be good, beautiful and true if there weren't any photos. But, thanks to the Times, these moments were recorded and shared.



After the Mother's Day Art Fairs of the 70s, the Biggest Yard Sale came to Skinker-DeBaliviere. Like many of us, late one Saturday a tired neighbor sat amid what was left of her vast front yard sale.



The annual theater event, usually a melodrama, was another huge neighborhood undertaking. *Promethea*, shown here, was an original show mixing Greek legend with current politics. Every play offered something for everyone and a chance to perform. It was chaos at rehearsals but—when the curtain went up, it all fell into place. There's a lesson about life there somewhere.



photos by King Schoenfeld



A hub of activity for Art Fairs and Yard Sales was always the food—the Men's Liberation Bake Sale and the barbecue and the familiar faces serving and grilling.



Neighborhood traditions included the grotesque and the adorable appearing annually at the Halloween party and costume competition. Some of your kids were here, ready to head out onto the streets for loot. But first, a minute for the photographer.



Operation BrightSide still brings neighbors out into the alleys. Why do we care what our alleys look like? Maybe we wanted to manicure those bricks and asphalt because we share that space with neighbors and, like family, feel obliged to do our bit.



Like our alleys, those barricades—love 'em or hate 'em—got attention each summer during BrightSide. And at Halloween there used to be coffee, cocoa and donuts there for chilled parents who escorted their kids up and down the streets.

*continued on page 8*

## Skinker-DeBaliviere through the Viewfinder

photos by King Schoenfeld



Neighbors Night Out swept the country sometime in the 80s and a number of neighbors organized a fantastic turnout, a grand procession headed by a homemade banner that said it all. Here and there families organized a cookout or just sat outside to say hello to each other. It happened in that ideal moment of the seasons between winter's hibernation and summer's air-conditioned isolation.

Skinker-DeBaliviere has meant beginnings and endings, recorded by the Times. When our branch library, housed in a former grocery store, burned, we successfully lobbied for a new one, a tiny kiosk which we proudly gathered to open in 1983. It was unlike any other, a place where adults read stories to children outdoors seated on the grass. Where youngsters became assistant librarians and challenged each other to read. Where tarantulas sometimes lurked.



Photographs of new restaurants in the neighborhood regularly appeared in the Times. Some stayed, others didn't last. One, the Wabash Triangle Cafe, with its charismatic owner and military chef, burned brightly for a while and then just burned.

When disaster struck, like the winds that toppled trees into our homes and cars, we muddled through in good humor. And in those days when death struck, we held together, a community with bonds of spiritual support.

Through my viewfinder, I see the spirit of our neighborhood each year at the Martin Luther King observance. Our youngsters play their part. Our elders say their peace. And together we sing, holding hands and moving together with the music. It's about overcoming our differences. It's about being a community.



# Reminiscences

by Steve Brammeier

I graduated from the University of Missouri School of Veterinary Medicine in June of 1975. After about two years in a practice in Bridgeton, I was planning on returning to Columbia, Missouri, to join a classmate in a new practice. In anticipation of that move, I had accepted a position, in August of 1977, with the newly formed Animal Emergency Clinic in Kirkwood. The plan was for me to work about 6 months in the Emergency practice before the move to Columbia.

That fall, my son Ben was diagnosed with a rare inherited blood disorder. He had been mildly ill for several months and was finally hospitalized at St. Louis Children's Hospital where his mother, Marjie, and I were given the unexpected news. Considering Ben's illness and likely need for future hospital visits and medical care for such a rare disorder, Marjie and I decided a move to Columbia was not feasible.

I enjoyed the work at the Emergency Clinic, but felt the odd hours were not going to provide the time for my family, and I wanted to complete the dream of having my own practice.

Marjie and I were living in our first house in Hazelwood, just off Missouri Bottom Road and HWY 270 near my first job. We both had grown up in the North County area and our families were still living there. We were fond of local art shows and had been to at least one of the Mother's Day art fairs after we moved back to St. Louis. We liked the neighborhood. I told people, "I remember this as the area we had to drive through to get to the Zoo and Muny Opera when I first learned to drive." It was nice to see for ourselves that it was much more than an area just to be driven through.

One night in February of 1978, Marjie and I had dinner guests. We talked about our plans, and what we thought I would do to continue my profession. After our guest left, Marjie and I put the dirty dishes in the sink and went to bed, but I could not sleep. My mind raced. I got up and washed the dishes. Then I remembered, the last time we were at a Mother's Day Art Fair, there was a boarded up service station on one corner. I woke Marjie up and told her I knew what I wanted to do. It was about 3 o'clock in the morning. I got dressed and drove down into this neighborhood. I had to know if the station was still vacant; I wanted to see if there was a sign; I wanted to see more of the neighborhood.

It was snowing slightly, the ground was dusted. I drove onto the parking lot of the still vacant station and wrote down the name



Photo by Jeremy Schoenfeld

*Editor's note:*

*King Schoenfeld didn't mention the multitude of portrait shots he has taken. Here, on a rare occasion on the other side of the camera, King poses for a Macho Menu photo.*

and number of the realty company. Then, with the driver's window down, I cruised around the neighborhood. It was very quiet that late with the snow falling. And it was light enough to see the many aspects of this neighborhood we all love.

I don't remember what time I got home. But, soon after, we started the process rolling that would lead me to open Kingsbury Animal Hospital in June of 1978. I remember the call I got from then Alderman Vince Schoemehl. He invited Marjie and I to attend a Rosedale Neighbors meeting. We received a warm reception from the gathering in St. Roch's basement. The neighborhood had been concerned for sometime about the vacant property, and had staved off an attempt to open a car wash. Everyone was genuinely pleased that we thought enough of the neighborhood to open a veterinary practice. It was a great experience and was a precursor of the feelings of community that we were to find in Skinker-DeBaliviere when we moved into our first home in the neighborhood at 6133 Westminster.

It is odd how fast 17 years can go by. There have been many changes. I have two sons, Ben 18 and Joey 14. Marjie and I are no longer together, but as many of you know, we both have strong ties to the neighborhood. It has been wonderful to have a neighborhood business in an area as diverse as ours. I have seen children grow up with their pets; I have gotten to know many wonderful people as clients, and friends; I have received much love and support from those friends, especially through the rough times of my sons illnesses; I have enjoyed helping people care for their pets and have felt a close bond with many as it came time to make decisions about letting their pets pass on.

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# Vicissitudes

(off and on since 1972)

by Marj Weir

Delores Hoefel, who is retiring as Director of Grace Preschool after eleven years in that position and 20 total years of service, will be honored by the many people whose lives she has touched at a reception in Grace United Methodist Church's Fellowship Hall on April 23, at 12:15 p.m. After the reception we suggest you join us at the Central West End Bank for our 25th Anniversary party.

Amy and Amrit Gill have a new baby, born March 22 and named Wyatt Duncan Singh. He weighed 8 lbs. 11 oz. which is big enough to carry his name. Amy says he is cute, happy and hairy!

Celestine Cunningham, long-time resident of 61XX Kingsbury, has moved to a nursing care facility where her sister also resides. Their niece, Charlotte, who took care of Celestine so faithfully for many years, now lives at the Dorchester. I knew Celestine when we were both teachers in the 1960's and was pleased to find her across the alley when we moved into our house in 1971. Her neighbors will miss her cheery greetings and her kind heart.

Send your news to *The Times*. We'd be pleased to run some engagement and wedding photos. We don't often get them. **Alert! Get us your news of graduates for our June issue.** I hate to find out I missed somebody, but I don't have time to do much basic data gathering. I rely on you!

My foremost impression of this area is its sense of neighborhood. I experienced this through Rosedale Neighbors meetings, SDCC meetings, Halloween parties, Progressive Dinners, Rags to Riches Sales, Mothers Day Art Fairs, Men's Liberation Bake Sales, and through the unfortunate times when there were problems in the area to discuss. I hope as an individual, and as a neighborhood business owner, that we can keep that sense neighborhood. I need it.

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by Nancy Farmer

Many things distinguish Skinker DeBaliviere from other city neighborhoods: our proximity to Forest Park; our stately, historic homes with uniform setbacks on tree-lined streets; our neighborhood Council that employs full time staff to work for community betterment; our anchor institutions including St. Roch, Grace United Methodist and New Cote Brilliante churches and Washington University; and our diverse population - black and white, blue collar, white collar and students, young and not-so-young, homeowners and tenants, families and singles. While other neighborhoods may rival us in these characteristics to varying degrees, NONE, save Skinker DeBaliviere, may claim to have the "oldest, continuously published neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis".

The role of *The Times* in the history and success of our neighborhood should not be underestimated. I know from my nearly nine years as Executive Director of the Council that this publication is an invaluable tool for our area.

Obviously, *The Times* is the effective way to "get the word out". Ten times a year neighbors,

institutions and organizations can report their news and views, solicit support or publicize events. It is a luxury for us to have a place to submit information where it will be printed and distributed through a tireless network of volunteers to every doorstep in the neighborhood. *The Times* is a critical element in our neighborhood's ability to exchange information and keep residents informed.

The more subtle role of *The Times* is its contribution to our identity as a neighborhood. The importance of this role is difficult to measure and I confess that I am subjective in my appraisal. I firmly believe, however, that our sense of belonging to a clearly defined community is enhanced by the appearance on our doorsteps of a monthly tabloid that is uniquely ours.

For many years I was a regular contributor to *The Times*. It was my pleasure to work closely with the many volunteers who spend hours every month putting this paper together. These volunteers are among the unsung heroes of our neighborhood. They give generously of their time and money to print our neighborhood news but they seldom publish stories about their own tremendous efforts in researching, writing, editing, laying-out, printing, distributing and financing *The Times*.

I want to take this opportunity to recognize all of the many volunteers who have contributed to *The Times*. You have, and I hope you will continue to, play an important part in making Skinker DeBaliviere a better place to live and work.

Congratulations and Thank You!

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by Tom Hoerr

Twenty-five years is a long time. It's longer than the reign of many kings and queens, five times the length of WWII, more than 8,000 sunrises and sunsets, and long enough for men's narrow ties to have been in, gone out, come back, and gone out of fashion.

Dick Clark hasn't changed a bit, but otherwise the world is a lot different than it was in 1970, when *The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere* (founded as "*The Paper*") first began. Twenty-five years ago Richard Nixon was President of the U.S. Watergate was just a hotel in D.C. Our government's involvement in VietNam was still increasing; the ROTC building at Washington University was burned in protest. The baseball Cardinals had lost the World Series the two preceding years; the football Cardinals were drafting poorly and losing games. The St. Louis Hawks were playing in Atlanta and a new sport, new to St. Louis anyway, hockey, was taking hold.

Twenty-five years ago Skinker-DeBaliviere was a neighborhood in jeopardy. For that matter, the entire City was at risk. Few real estate agents would show housing in the City; the "War On Poverty" was already failing in many respects. Mayor Cervantes took a good deal of public criticism for acquiring the Santa Maria and for advocating that a second major airport be built in Illinois.

Many things have changed in twenty-five years, and many haven't moved a bit. Our public officials now are under scrutiny that was unheard of twenty-five years ago. One aftermath of Watergate and VietNam, a cost that extracts a very high price, is that we no longer trust our public institutions -- or our public officials.

Fortunately, Skinker-DeBaliviere has survived and flourished. Indeed, our neighborhood is often used as a model of how people can work together and make a difference. Like all good things, this didn't happen by chance. The first St. Louis Art Fair and House Tour began here. The paper you're reading was started as St. Louis' first neighborhood newspaper too. The Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council was formed as well. What these endeavors shared is that they were vehicles for people to come together and work for the common good. They achieved that good, and made the participants stronger in the process.

What were we like twenty-five years ago? We're all different now, too, but there are still a few things that surely are relevant for all of us. Twenty five years ago, we didn't need glasses, or we didn't need glasses as strong as the ones we're wearing today. Twenty-five years ago we weighed less than we do today (or else the sizes of clothing has changed and they're making things tighter than they used to). And probably twenty-five years ago we were all a bit more idealistic -- or is it less realistic? -- than we are today. That doesn't mean we hope or want for less; just that we're wiser about the vagaries of life.

Throughout these changes, and non-changes, *The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere* has been a constant in the neighborhood. Editors and writers and ad-takers and deliverers have changed, but the paper truly hasn't. It has always been what it remains today: an opportunity to share thoughts with friends and neighbors, a tool to remind us that we all live together in a special place.

## Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board of Directors March 6, 1995 Minutes

Members present: Directors Beth Bender, Arline Webb, Greg Freeman, Tricia Roland Hamilton, Ruth Johnson, Ann Smith Carr, Maggie Hart-Mahon, Gary Hayes, Catherine Forslund, Jack Wright, Sara Johnson, Joe deBettencourt, Miki Merritt, and Shirley Polk; NSO Jackie Wellington; and SDCC Director Kim Koenig.

Guests included: Alan Hamilton, George Johannes, and Andy Cross.

B. Bender called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

### I. Neighborhood Landscaping/Monument Plan

A. Hamilton and G. Johannes reported on the progress of this plan and presented the design for the monuments once again. K. Koenig will submit a grant proposal to Union Electric next week for 70 Cleveland Select Pear trees along Forest Park Parkway between Skinker and DeBaliviere. The following resolution was passed unanimously by the Board:

"The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council approves the landscape and decorative street monument plan for the neighborhood, as presented by the Skinker DeBaliviere Apartment Owners Association. Be it further resolved that the Council endorses the Apartment Owners Association to begin implementation of the plan with the full coordination with the Executive Director and Alderman."

### II. Election of Officers

K. Koenig read the nominations for officers for 1995. They were as follows:

Beth Bender  
Sara Johnson  
Ruth Johnson  
Joe Miller

C. Forslund moved "That the above-read officers be elected for a one-year term"; seconded by J. Wright and approved. A. Carr commended A. Johnson for his year of service to the Council as Vice President.

### III. Approval of Minutes

A. Webb moved "The minutes of the January Board meeting be accepted as read"; seconded by G. Freeman and approved.

### IV. Treasurer's Report

K. Koenig distributed January and February cash statements for review. She also recommended two amendments to the 1995 budget: additional \$500 for office supplies and additional \$38 for insurance. C. Forslund moved "That the Treasurer's Report be accepted as read"; seconded by T. Roland and approved.

### V. Committee/Association Reports

**Commercial Planning** - K. Koenig reported that Hardee's has presented plans to this committee for a new restaurant at Skinker and Enright. More meetings on this proposal will be held. She also reported that Limits Grocery has closed, and a coffee house will be opening in its place.

**Parkview** - J. deBettencourt reported that a developer purchased a lot on Westminster and Center with plans for a spec house to be built.

**Rosedale** - B. Bender reported that the Annual Potluck Dinner/Elections will be held April 6 at 6:30 p.m. at Crossroads School. G. Hayes suggested that the Board try to do something about the Suburban Journals and Metro Posts being thrown on properties. A majority of these never get picked up, and as a result, contribute to neighborhood litter. K. Koenig will write a letter of complaint to both of the publications. She will also remind the Apartment Owners Association of this problem in the next meeting notice. K. Koenig reminded Board members of the upcoming Neighborhood-Wide Crime Meeting on March 13, 7 p.m., in St. Roch's Cafeteria. Members of the 7th District Police will be in attendance to answer any questions.

**Housing Corporation** - K. Koenig reported that 6025 Westminster was beautifully rehabbed, and thanked G. Bierman for holding an open house for the Board. The two family at 6039-41 McPherson will likely be complete at the end of March. She also reported that 6143 Waterman has been officially blighted, and thanked all those who testified at the hearing.

**Recreation** - B. Bender reported that Parkway Central has donated softball equipment to our neighborhood.

**Social Services** - B. Bender reported that the next neighborhood food drive is March 25.

**By-Laws** - T. Roland reported that C. Forslund has drafted by-laws for the committee to review at its next meeting on March 29.

**Beautification** - K. Koenig reported that Blitz Day is April 29, 1995. She introduced A. Cross to explain his proposal for a beautification project. A. Cross presented a mock-up design for covers over the barricade poles. Any monies needed for this project will come from revenue he has saved from neighborhood recycling efforts. A. Carr moved "That the Board support A. Cross' proposal for the aesthetic enhancement of barricade poles"; seconded by G. Hayes and approved.

**Personnel** - B. Bender reported that the Executive Committee will meet with K. Koenig next week to discuss her annual review.

**Playground** - B. Bender reported that the next neighborhood meeting on this proposed playground will be held Tuesday, April 18, at 6:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall of Grace Methodist Church. Since the Council does not meet between this public meeting and the grant application deadline for funding this project (May 1), she asked that the Board approve this proposal. C. Forslund moved "That the Board give conditional approval to the playground providing support of surrounding neighbors and the Alderman"; seconded by S. Polk and approved.

### NEW BUSINESS

**FOSD Party** - B. Bender will host this social on June 16 at 7 p.m. at her home for all FOSD (Friends of Skinker DeBaliviere) members and any interested new members.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

### In Your Ear *continued from page 12*

fifth grade when I wrote about how many angels could dance on the head of a pin. Anyway, why use sun-tan lotion and defeat the purpose of getting in the sun??? Give me a break! So yes, go to the zoo, roll up those shirt-sleeves, do not use any kind of lotion, and see how quickly you can get your skin to turn to a nice dark pink, the kind you see in a rare steak. Now I warn you, it's just possible that this may not feel too great. That's OK, make one of your five or six meals an ice cream, and buy a second one to rub on your skin. It's a might sticky, but awfully cool. And if the family pooch is traveling with you, taking care of the sticky feeling on your skin will be no problem. Remember, it's the pooch's vacation too. Woof!

6. Don't plan ahead. There's nothing to lose the pleasure of a vacation like over-planning. And, after all, you have to spend most of your regular life planning, so

why do it on vacation? Get up, pack a breakfast or two under your belt, load up the car, and start driving. As a compromise, you may want to pick a general direction, but that's all that's necessary. Drive until you're tired, push yourself another hour or three, and then find a hotel room. You need not worry about having made reservations, after all, this is your vacation. And don't bother yourself with checking the gas gauge either, that's what AAA is for. Running out of gas on a lonely highway or sleeping in bus station is a great way to meet new friends. And packing is a breeze: just have all of your clothes be of the same season, and you can mix and match.

I truly hope that you enjoy these vacation tips. Vacations are a special time, so make the most of yours! Oh yes, send me a postcard. I'd love to hear about your respite from the real world.

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- St. Louis Post-Dispatch

# In Your Ear (since 1981!)

by Hawkeye V. Hoerr

It's May and that means that it's time to plan that long-awaited SUMMER VACATION. Yep, Karl Marx was right: we toil for 50 weeks, putting in long hours of hard labor, just to get a couple of weeks off to enjoy ourselves. Groucho Marx was right too: It's harder to do what used to come easy. And I suspect that Harpo Marx was right as well, but who knows?

We look forward to that vacation as if it will solve all of our problems. We can put up with the humidity of the summer, the chills of winter, the doldrums of February, and the boss's grouchiness because soon we'll have two weeks to do our thing. That's "our thing," given the inevitable constraints of time, money, and legality.

These two weeks are going to have to last us for a while, probably until we start carving the turkey in November. We'll return to work with at least two weeks of chaos awaiting us, pink slips indicating phone messages upon pink slips upon pink slips. Just once I'd like to get a pink slip with a phone message saying "So-and-so called and when they found out you weren't in, they said, 'never mind, it's not that important anyway.'" No, everyone's message is important; each query demands a response. So by 11:00 a.m. on the Monday after vacation, I know that I'll be already thinking about the next vacation, only eleven-plus months away.

Given the preciousness of these two vacation weeks, *In Your Ear*, in its advice-giving tradition, offers some helpful hints for enjoying your time away from work. Bear in mind, however, that in the past, *In Your Ear* has also offered tips on how to prevent flooding in the midwest, things that Charles and Diana can do to preserve their royal marriage, and ways to elevate the intellectual dialogue among local politicians. So as you can see, our track record is little better than Elizabeth Taylor's. But taking credit for perseverance, here we go again!

#### Tips For The Family Vacation

1. Try to cram everything you didn't do during the rest of the year into this two-week window; after all, you have to wait another 50 weeks for another shot! So, for example, if you enjoy fine dining and eating out, eat out every meal. Between breakfast at Denny's and dinner at the Painted Plates, squeeze in a lunch at Applebee's. And since after your first day there are only thirteen days left, why not start having mid-morning brunches and late afternoon teas? A tea doesn't require actually drinking tea, so you could have a beer and onion rings at Blueberry Hill and count it as a tea. And your mid-morning brunch could be something as

simple as a White Castle or two to clear the palate.

2. Take this opportunity to get some physical exercise. So what if you've been a couch potato! In these two weeks you can probably lose 15-20 pounds and get yourself back in fighting shape. I recommend a pre-dawn early morning jog, maybe on the way to Denny's. After that, say at 9:30 or so, stop by the Y and spend a half an hour or so on their weight machines. Mid-afternoon might see you doing some roller-blading in Forest Park (don't forget that helmet!), and an evening aerobics workout to a Jane Fonda or Willard Scott tape would round out the day (no pun intended). Oh yes, don't forget to take the pooch for a run, and never mind that leash! It's your park, too!

3. Between the eating and exercising, you might feel a bit overbooked, or tired, but no matter. After the first week, you only have seven days left, so

there's no time to lose. Whether you're staying in town or visiting another metropolis, you have to go to the Art Museum. Oh, I'm not suggesting you actually see art (after all, this is your vacation), but you must stop by the gift shop. Every art museum, everywhere, has these great little inexpensive trinkets that you can buy and give to people throughout the year. Whether they're Rembrandt pencils or Van Gogh coffee mugs or Rubens placemats, the message to the recipient is that you're cultured. It doesn't matter that they don't need, want, or like the pencils, mugs, or placemats. After all, gift-giving is about the impression you leave, not the joy they get. Is this a great country, or what???

4. After the art museum, make sure you go to the local zoo. Every city has a zoo, and it's usually pretty cheap to take the family there. Where else, after all, can you watch other living things being bored to death while in

captivity? (No fair counting schools and prisons!) If the day at the zoo gets a little boring, try running into the crowd yelling, "THE LIONS ARE LOOSE, THE LIONS ARE LOOSE!!!" That's not the same as yelling "fire" in a crowded theater, so who could be upset? It's great fun to see the crowd scatter and panic ensue. And heck, just maybe the lions really are loose and you'll be a hero!

5. Don't use any sun-tan lotion. Sun-tan lotion has always been a bit of a mystery to me. I mean, people want to get out in the sun to get a tan because they think that they look better and everyone else will know they've been somewhere and that they're not worried about skin cancer, and then they use sun-tan lotion to keep the tan from showing so that they won't look better and people won't know they've been anywhere and they won't get skin cancer. Whew! I haven't written a run-on sentence that bad since the

*continued on page 11*

*Our  
home  
is  
in  
the  
city...  
so  
is  
our heart!*



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